LEVEL news

About LEVEL news

Contents

Dry Weather Persists Over Lower Lakes

Open House Reminder

Did You Know?

Flow Measurements

Lakes Superior and Ontario Regulation

July Precipitation

July Outflows

Water Levels for the Great Lakes and Montreal Harbour

... a monthly bulletin from Canadian Hydrographic Service

About the monthly Water Level bulletin

July Precipitation Over the Great Lakes

As a percentage of the long-term July average:

Great Lakes Basin	131%
Lake Erie (including Lake St. Clair)	70%
Lake Superior	147%
Lakes Michigan-Huron	151%
Lake Ontario	83%

Note: These figures

Volume 7, Number 8 **August 6, 1999**

Upper Lakes Receive Higher Than Average Precipitation During July

Dry Weather Persists Over Lower Lakes

Great Lakes basin precipitation was above average in July, with above average rainfall on the upper lakes while the lower lakes experienced drier conditions. For the fourth consecutive month, Lake Ontario's basin had below average precipitation.

During July, Lake Superior's basin received 147% of its average monthly rainfall. The lake's water level rose 13 cm during July and in early August remains 9 cm below seasonal average. The present level is a few centimetres higher than the level recorded one year ago.

In response to higher water supplies, Lakes Michigan-Huron rose 5 cm during July, but still remains 22 cm below average. While the present levels are down about 40 cm from last year, they are more than 60 cm above the record low for this time of year experienced in 1964.

The Lake Erie basin (which includes Lake St. Clair) received just 70% of its average precipitation in July. Water levels on Lakes St. Clair and Erie fell by 6 and 4 cm, respectively, from the beginning to the end of July. At the beginning of August, both lakes were about 7 cm below average. Water levels on both lakes are expected to continue to decline in August.

Despite the lack of rainfall, high evaporation and low basin runoff, Lake Ontario's water level remained virtually unchanged from the beginning to the end of July. The low Lake Ontario outflow specified by the lake's regulation plan is the offsetting factor. It appears that the lake reached its peak level for the year on July 10 with a daily mean level of 74.84 m. At the beginning of August, Lake Ontario was about 15 cm below average.

Due to low flows from Lake Ontario and other tributaries to the St. Lawrence River, Montréal Harbour continues to experience very low water level conditions. The daily mean level for the harbour was below chart datum on 15 days in July, and could remain below chart datum in August.

Open House Reminder

The International Niagara Board of Control is holding an open house on

are preliminary.

July Outflows From the Great Lakes

As a percentage of the long-term July average:

Lake Superior 96%

Lake Erie 96%

Lake Huron 93%

Lake Ontario 84%

Note: These figures are preliminary.

Last Issue

Next Issue

Issue Index

Summary information for "LEVEL*news*"

Tuesday, September 14 at 7:30 p.m. at the Old Stone Inn, 5425 Robinson Street, Niagara Falls, Ontario.

The purpose of this open house is to inform the public of the Board's current activities, discuss plans to modify the IJC Order of Approval for installation of the Lake Erie - Niagara River Ice Boom and to hear public comments and suggestions regarding the Board's work. In addition, information will be presented on Great Lakes' water levels.

Did You Know?

The size of the Great Lakes - St. Lawrence River system is awesome. The basin upstream of the power dam on the St. Lawrence River at Cornwall, Ontario/Massena, New York covers about 774 000 km^2. The five Great Lakes contain about 23 000 km^3 of water covering a total area of about 244 000 km^2-- just under one-third of the basin's total area.

Flow Measurements

During August, personnel from Environment Canada and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will be taking water flow measurements at the Lake Superior Compensating Works, located at the head of the Whitefish Rapids in the St. Marys River between Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario and Michigan. These measurements are part of an ongoing program to verify the accuracy of the flows in the Great Lakes - St. Lawrence River system.

Lakes Superior and Ontario Regulation

The August outflows of Lake Superior and Lake Ontario (the only two lakes that are regulated) will be as specified by the regulation plans for these lakes, according to the IJC Boards that oversee outflow regulation.

Top of Page
Français | Contact Us | Help | Search | Canada Site
What's New | Topics | Publications | Weather | Home | About Us

part of Environment Canada's Green Lane™

Webmaster
Last Updated: 2001-01-02
Last Reviewed: 2001-01-02

Important Notices and Disclaimers
URL: http://www.on.ec.gc.ca/water/level-news/lvn99aug-e.html